

BRAINSTORMS

With Ferrin Cox

Reports are that the fish are thriving at Coffee County Lake. Lake manager Charles Lindsey reports the fish population was checked this week by the state biologist and they left happy. They report the bluegill population is prime and there are actually too many bass in the pond! That means as soon as the water warms a bit and they start bedding, the bass will be almost jumping into the fishermen's (or fisherman's) ice chests. It also indicates the bass will get hungry, having to fight for food, and they should be biting also!

Charles Kennett was presented a war medal 52 years after he officially earned it ... and earn it he did. As one of his friends, who also saw combat time, said, "I am glad I didn't get one of those things. The medal was for a war wound which still bothers Kennett and it was earned on two fronts, where he spent 21 days fighting as a walking wounded. Even with all that, Charles was one of the lucky ones ... he survived!"

The Alabama legislature is getting into the point in their regular session where some tough decisions must be made. Many of the controversial bills must still be voted on, compromised or killed in committee. The lawmakers will offend some of us either way they go. The budgets are still being debated, as is the emotional "salary matrix" for school teachers. There are continuing reports that AEA's Paul Hubbard is less open with his thumbs up/thumbs down balcony actions, but he is still there and passing signals on many bills. That much power in one lobbyist isn't good for Alabama, but if someone wants to hire a qualified lobbyist ... Hubbard is the man who can fill those shoes, and fill them very well.

County Mounties ... the old CB handle for deputy sheriffs. You had better watch out, 'cause those guys are working radar in Coffee County now. County highways have a maximum of 45 miles per hour so watch out! Oh, on dirt roads it is only 35 MPH.

The display of the Ten Commandments in a judge's courtroom continues to thrust proponents and opposers into the spotlight. It is hard to understand the problem. If a person doesn't care for the Christian commandments, he or she can just ignore them ... they are sitting there on the wall, not saying a thing to the nonreader. What this is doing is thrusting Circuit Judge Moore into the state and national spotlight. Now the question is, "Will he run for statewide office, or go national?" Either way the free, positive (in the South) publicity can't be bought with money.

On a related subject ... please don't get upset with Governor James and Attorney General Bill Pryor over their decision not to appeal a ruling that a "prayer law" was unconstitutional. It is our long held opinion that any law which let us Christians pray in the public schools, would soon be letting any religion, plus the cults, do the same thing. Nothing good would come of that. Compare it to the federal law protecting the impaired (or handicapped). The law was well intended and has helped many people who have a lot to offer civilization. However, there is a law in the courts now to force UPS to transfer a seeing impaired man to a position of truck driver "because it is the law." Now folks that isn't what the lawmakers intended. That is not within the scope of "reasonable" because it endangers the thousands of people this driver would be meeting every day ... to say nothing of what it would do to the company's insurance rates.

It is amazing to see the state head of the Department of Human Resources (DHR), the old welfare office, continually getting accused of uttering unprofessional comments in public meetings. We don't know Mrs. Nachman and therefore can't do anything but accept the news reports as fact ... and that isn't good for Nachman, nor her boss Governor Fob James. Taxpayers deserve 100% from anyone on the payroll, Nachman, the county directors and every member of the staff ... we not only deserve it, we demand it. However, few experts would suggest such crude management methods as being credited to Alabama's DHR head. P.S. We supported her action to transfer workers from the Montgomery headquarters out into the field where the people in need live ... hopefully all this static is not because she messed up someone's playhouse.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE
All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination."
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.



The Elba Clipper

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A VISIT FROM THE EASTER BUNNY... The Easter Bunny even knows how little ones are in the hospital. Just before the Easter weekend, the Easter Bunny paid a visit to Elba General Hospital. Pictured above with Bunny (Darlene Stinson) is Dealan Carver who was a patient in the hospital. Dealan is the son of Kimberly Reeves.

Tell'em you read it in... THE ELBA CLIPPER

ELBA POLICE REPORT MARCH 31 THRU APRIL 6, 1997

The Elba Police Department, beginning Monday, March 31, 1997, investigated the following incidents: four assaults, six harassments, three thefts of property, three DUI's, one dog bite, one property recovery, one missing juvenile, two unauthorized use of a vehicle, one disorderly conduct, one unlawful use of marijuana, two criminal mischiefs, one menacing, one criminal trespass, and one interfering with custody.

Arrests were as follows: one for assault, one for reckless endangerment, five for harassment, one for criminal trespass, one for disorderly conduct, and one for unlawful use of marijuana.

Traffic citations issued were as follows: three for DUI, one for driving while driver's license are suspended, fifteen for speeding, one for seat belt required, and one for an improper muffler.

Daily activity highlights were as follows:
MONDAY, MARCH 31 - River stage - 5.11 feet (7:00 a.m.); Alarm at Elba High School (9:53 a.m.); Disturbance (domestic) in Morrow Village (11:25 a.m.); Burglary reported on Hickman Ave. (2:13 p.m.); Burglary reported on Pine Circle (4:58 p.m.); Rescue run to a residence on Guyton St. (6:27 p.m.); Disturbance reported on West St. (7:18 p.m.).

TUESDAY, APRIL 1 - River stage - 5.11 feet (6:22 a.m.); Alarm at residence on Taylor Mill Road (7:37 a.m.); Rescue run to residence on AL Hwy. 167N (9:55 a.m.); Alarm at residence on N. Clayton Ave. (1:27 p.m.); Alarm at Elba Elementary School (2:41 p.m.).

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2 - River stage - 5.29 feet (6:42 a.m.); Wreck reported on Hickman Ave. (9:23 a.m.); Wreck reported on U.S. Hwy. 84W (9:38 a.m.); Wreck reported on Old Samsom Road (1:58 p.m.).

THURSDAY, APRIL 3 - Alarm at a residence on N. Clayton Ave. (1:24 a.m.); River stage - 5.39 feet (6:42 a.m.); Rescue run to a residence on Larkin Road (4:06 p.m.).

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897-3881**

Look!
Small Ads Do Get Attention!
You're reading one!
Call
THE ELBA CLIPPER
897-2823 Today!!!!



MAKING OURSELVES CLEARER

The Elba Clipper wants to correct errors that appear in this newspaper. Any reader wishing to point out our errors, whether ours or those of our sources, should contact the editor at 897-2823. Clarifications will appear promptly in this space.

Bulletin Board

S.S. REP. - Carbone, 4th Tues. 12:30-1:30. Call FREE 1-800-772-1213.
ROTARY CLUB - Tuesday @ Noon - First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall.
ELBA MINISTERS ASSN. - Tues. 8:00 a.m. Elba United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.
ELBA CITY COUNCIL - 2nd & 4th Monday, 6:00 p.m. City Hall.
WATER & ELECTRIC - Tuesday following 2nd Monday, 6:00 p.m. City Hall.
COFFEE COUNTY COMMISSION - 2nd & 4th Monday of each month - Community Room in Farm Center Complex @ 5:00 p.m.
LEON'S CLUB - 2nd & 4th Tues. - 6:30 p.m. Senior Citizens Center.
ELBA CITY SCHOOL BOARD - 1st Thurs. - 5:30 p.m. - Supp. Office.
AMERICAN LEGION - 1st Thurs. - 7:30 p.m. - Legion Hall, Troy Hwy.
RESCUE SQUAD - 2nd & 4th Tues. - 7:00 p.m. - Rescue Squad Building.
MASONIC LODGE 178 1st & 3rd Monday of each month, 7 p.m.
BAND BOOSTERS - 1st Mon. - 7 p.m. - Band Room @ Elba High School.
NEWSPAPER SERVICE OFFICER - Mon-Fri: 8:15 noon & 12:30-4:30. New location @ Farm Center Complex 894-5858.
COFFEE COUNTY CONVENTIONERS ASSN. - 3rd Sat. - 3 p.m. Club House.
COFFEE REPUBLICAN WOMEN 3rd Wed. Noon - Colony Inn - Enterprise.
AIRPORT AUTHORITY 1st Tuesday - 12 Noon - City Hall Conference Room.
AARP Meet every 3rd Tuesday night of the month.
CIVIL AIR PATROL - Every Monday 7:00 p.m. - Elba Airport-Detrol Garage.

Life Insurance available through National Security Insurance Co.



FROM THE HOUSE

Congressman
Terry Everett

Americans Are Already Taxed to Death

The old saying, "The only things certain in life are death and taxes" needs revising. As April 15, swiftly approaches, most Americans would probably say, "The only thing certain is being taxed to death."

The conservative 105th Congress, just like the conservative 104th Congress before it, shares this belief. That is why we are fighting for tax relief, enabling greater take-home pay for all Americans.

American families once paid only five percent of their income in federal taxes. That was 47 years ago.

Today, federal tax burdens on families average about 24 percent, and when combined with other taxes, families lose about 40 percent of their income to the government. This April 15, Congress will vote on legislation making it much harder for lawmakers to press federal tax increases.

I am a cosponsor of the Tax Limitation Amendment, a constitutional amendment requiring a two-thirds supermajority vote in Congress to raise federal taxes. The idea behind this legislation is simple. It shouldn't be easy for Washington to take money from families.

The Tax Limitation Amendment forces Congress to focus on balancing the federal budget and cutting wasteful spending, not raising taxes. This legislation was first considered by the House last year, but failed to achieve the necessary two-thirds vote for passage of a constitutional amendment. I'm hopeful that the tax limiting amendment will fare better this year.

A tax limitation law does work. States with tax limitation laws in their constitutions have experienced fewer tax increases over non-tax limitations.

The time for real and decisive action against out-of-control taxes is right now. Since the 1986 attempt at tax reform, the federal tax code has seen more than 4,000 amendments. As the rules keep changing, Americans are unable to save and plan ahead. Investments are stifled, and billions of dollars are spent just to comply with a ridiculously complex and onerous federal tax laws.

The Tax Limitation Amendment will help restore predictability to the tax code, and more confidence in our system.

It's time to get the message across to Washington, and the IRS, that Americans will no longer be taxed to death.

SAVE • SAVE • SAVE
DON'T MISS OUT... BUY NOW!!!
NO DEALERS PLEASE
Bob French, Greg Bowden, Farrel Bruce, Teresa Dutton

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95 OLDSMOBILE ACHIEVA Auto, 4 dr, SL, V6, P/W, Bl, cruise, cassette ONLY \$208 ⁰⁰ per mo. *	94 PLYMOUTH ACCLAIM 4 dr, auto, air, bl, cruise ONLY \$149 ⁰⁰ per mo. **
97 OLDSMOBILE ACHIEVA SC Red low miles, loaded, V6, auto ONLY \$252 ⁰⁰ per mo. *	95 CHEVROLET CAVALIER LS Under 10,000 miles, auto, air, red ONLY \$231 ⁰⁰ per mo. *
95 NISSAN KING CAB 5 sp, 4 cyl, air, 100,000, cassette ONLY \$199 ⁰⁰ per mo. **	95 TOYOTA 4 X 4 SWB Only 10,000 miles, local trade ONLY \$282 ⁰⁰ per mo. *
95 NISSAN SWB 4 X 4 4 cyl, 5 sp, air, 100,000, cassette ONLY \$171 ⁰⁰ per mo. ***	95 SEAT JIMMY SLT 4-door, leather, loaded w/ all options ONLY \$278 ⁰⁰ per mo. *
95 NISSAN SENTRA Auto, 4 cyl, 100,000, cassette ONLY \$227 ⁰⁰ per mo. *	95 CHEVROLET CIRRUSS LXI Loaded, leather, local trade-in ONLY \$270 ⁰⁰ per mo. *

*10,000 Down Cash or trade with approved credit. **60 mo. 7.5% ** 48 mo. 8.9% *** 36 mo. 6.9%.

THE CAR CENTER
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of Enterprise

WE GET LETTERS.....

Dear Editor,

We speak of Elba as a small town with a big heart. As a community, there comes a time when it is necessary to put together and face our problems. One of the issues is animal cruelty.

Currently, we have several individuals interested in pulling together in an organization to benefit animals in need.

Most of us have had the opportunity to travel outside of this state and be exposed to other cultures. There are very few places that lack such respect for God's creatures that shooting a stray animal is still acceptable behavior.

Our shelter, through lack of funding and education of the general public, has the ability to keep abandoned animals only four days prior to being euthanized.

The conditions in the shelter are certainly less than appropriate. Sick, injured and abandoned animals lie there hoping that their owners will find them. Other owners abandon them when they are ill or because there is a release fee to get your pet back.

The fact is that a shelter is not for the protection of these animals but is a human convenience because we don't want them on our streets. Certainly we would not treat our children or family members like this.

To own an animal is a privilege not a right. They are not asked to be brought into this world. Routine vaccination and sterilization are vital to your animal's well-being.

A four-month-old puppy recently taken from the shelter, with blood pouring from its mouth and rectum, despite efforts by Dr. Bruce Donaldson, passed away alone and frightened the next night from parvovirus.

Please help us prevent this from happening again. If you would like to speak out against this tragedy, call us and show everyone Elba truly is a town with heart.

Henry Cochran, M.D. @ 897-3548
Kim Williams, M.D. @ 897-3427
Bernice Clay @ 897-6469
Keith Love @ 897-3427
Abby Binder, R.N. @ 735-3347

Dear Editor,

On Dec. 4, 1996, our 19-year-old son Pat was in a near-fatal automobile accident. Observing all the physical circumstances surrounding the accident, we are certain a miracle from God saved his life.

From that very difficult day until the present, we have witnessed God perform many additional miracles as Pat has almost completely recovered from his brain injury and severely broken leg much sooner than originally anticipated by his physicians.

We are living testimony that God does answer prayer, and we are convinced that there is no greater power on earth than prayer.

It is now four months since Pat's accident. Through God's help in answered prayer, he walks today without the aid of crutches and with only a slight limp. Pat's neuro-physicians tell us that his brain injury is almost completely healed.

Pat's speedy healing process is simply miraculous. God has blessed our family beyond imagination. We have come to understand that there are times when God stops us and helps us realize just how important family and friends are.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our most sincere thanks to everyone who has assisted us during this most difficult time in our lives. Words can't express our appreciation for your support and help as we have learned to deal with the trying times associated with Pat's accident.

Thank you all for who assisted us through your thoughts, concerns, cards, visits, and prayers. Please accept our most sincere gratitude as we will always remember your deeds of kindness and friendship. This entire community will always hold a very special place in our hearts.

Thank you for being our neighbor. God bless you!

THE MOATES FAMILY
Tom, Carolyn, Pat, Sam

SHARE YOUR NEWS!
WRITE A LETTER
TO THE EDITOR.

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Leather Interior - Sunroof only \$229⁹⁵ Month *

1993 CADILLAC SEDAN DEVILLE
Extra Clean Local Trade-In only \$229⁹⁵ Month **

*WAC & \$2,000.00 Plus Tax & Title Down **Plus Tax & Title

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AREA DEATHS

WILLIE MILFORD HORNSBY
Mr. Willie Milford Hornsby, age 82, of Rt. 1, Elba, died April 1, 1997, in Flowers Hospital, in Dothan, Ala.

Funeral services were held Thursday, April 3, 1997, at 2 p.m. from Hayes Funeral Home Chapel, with Rev. Emmett Cordle officiating. Burial was in Whitewater Baptist Church Cemetery, with Hayes Funeral Home directing.

Mr. Hornsby was preceded in death by his wife, Hilda M. Singsfield Hornsby.

Survivors include: two daughters: Janaria H. Thomas, Panama City, Fla.; Wilda H. Little, Opelika, Ala.; two sons-in-law: Grady E. Thomas, Panama City, Fla.; William B. Little Jr., Opelika, Ala.; two sisters: Louise Hagler and Merle Bass, both of Haines City, Fla.; four brothers: Ocie L. Hornsby and Marvin Ed Hornsby, both of New Brockton, Ala.; Luel Hornsby, Brundidge, Ala.; and Waylon Hornsby, Phenix City, Ala.; one brother-in-law: Roy Singsfield, Kenasaw, Fla.; two granddaughters: Donna M. Davis, Atlanta, Ga.; and Charlotte T. Wright, Montgomery, Ala.; one grandson: Todd McCollough, Atlanta, Ga.; two great-grandchildren.

BESSIE McCORD
Bessie McCord, age 93, of Elba, died April 4, 1997, in the Elba General Hospital.

Funeral services were held April 5, 1997, at 2 p.m. in the Hayes Funeral Home Chapel, with Rev. Wilson Meadows officiating.

Burial followed in Pine Level Community Cemetery, with Hayes Funeral Home directing.

Survivors include several nieces and nephews.

WILD HORSE AND BURRO ADOPTION TO BE HELD IN TROY

The Federal Government will sponsor a wild horse and burro adoption in Troy April 26-27. Hours are 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., and general admission is free.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), an agency within the Dept. of the Interior, will offer for adoption 100 horses and 50 burros (if available) from overgrazed Western rangelands in South Alabama.

Livestock, Inc., in people who agree to provide them good homes.

Adoption fee is \$125 for each horse or burro or \$250 per pair (mare and colt).

PRE-NEED FUNERAL PLANNING NOW AVAILABLE AT HAYES FUNERAL HOME

For details 897-2225

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MERCER CLEONE BRUNSON
Mercer Cleone Brunson, age 89, of Elba, died April 6, 1997, at the Elba Nursing Home.

Funeral services were held in Jan. 4, 1998.

Survivors include: four brothers: Lamar R. Brunson, Talladega, Ala.; Rev. Elmer C. Brunson, Leakey City, Texas; Forrest L. Brunson, Montgomery, Ala.; and Ralph L. Brunson, Nashville, Tenn.

Survivors include her husband: Brock and Kathleen B. Warren, both of Birmingham; Allene Brunson Ball and Hazel Brunson Prior, both of Atlanta, Ga.

CRAWFORD D. STORY
Mr. Crawford D. Story, age 86, of Rt. 4, Elba, died April 3, 1997, at the

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KEYBOARDING I WINNERS... Whether using a typewriter or a computer, knowledge of the keyboard is important. Keyboarding I on Computers was a category in Enterprise State Junior College's annual Business Tournament held recently for area high schools. Pictured above (l to r) are the winners: first place Joni Smith from Kinston High School, second place Summer Harding from Enterprise High School, and third place Donna Spencer from New Brockton High School.

KEYBOARDING II WINNERS... Enterprise State Junior College's annual Business Tournament was held recently for area high schools. Winning in the more difficult Keyboarding II on Computers were (l to r) first place Justin Campbell from New Brockton High School, second place Angela Sweet and third place April Hanson from Daleville High School.

Spring

BRINGS
OUT THE NICEST
THINGS!

Coming Up Thursday, April 10 Covington Electric Co-op Annual Membership Meeting

Registration Starts 3:00 P.M. Entertainment Starts 5:00 P.M.
Business Session - 7:00 P.M.

You are cordially invited to attend!
Look forward to enjoying a spring-filled
schedule of events and other nice things.

ENJOY GOOD, WHOLESOME ENTERTAINMENT provided by GOLD CITY, a Southern Gospel music group.
ENJOY VERY BRIEF REPORTS on operations of the Co-op along with the election of two members to serve three-year terms on the Board of Trustees.
ENJOY CONCESSION STANDS open for your convenience.



1990 Ford Truck

PLUS the GRAND PRIZE
give-away, a 1990 FORD
TRUCK shown to the left by
Co-op employee Susie Adams.

AND THAT'S NOT ALL!

OTHER MAJOR PRIZES include a MICROWAVE OVEN, VIDEO CASSETTE RECORDER, 21" COLOR TELEVISION, \$100 CASH and ELECTRIC GRILL with rotisserie.

AND THERE IS MORE AND MORE! In addition to the major prizes, more than 30 smaller electric appliances and gifts will be awarded. EACH CO-OP MEMBER REGISTERING WILL RECEIVE A FREE LIGHT BULB and other useful gifts. The drawing will be held after the business session. Members must be present to win any of the six major prizes, but do not have to be present to win the other prizes.

COME, JOIN US FOR THE NICEST THINGS, SPRING BRINGS.
Seating will be limited, so you may want to bring your lawn chairs!



Covington Electric Cooperative, Inc.

ANDALUSIA / BRANTLEY / ENTERPRISE / SAMSON
SERVING more than 20,000 consumers in
Covington, Coffee, Crenshaw, Dale and Geneva counties.

SECOND SEMESTER REPRESENTATIVES of the Elba Elementary Student Council assume their responsibilities. Officers are as follows: President - Jason Curran; Vice-President - Hannah Martin; Secretary - DeVri Kilcrease; Treasurer - Katie Driggers. **Representatives** are: Trey Martin, Araleana Moody, Aaron Burks, Tiffany Bryan, Matthew Gibson, Ben Frank, Dimetrio Tyson, Antwon Tillis, Haley Stinson, Steven Driggers, Brianna Bailey, Christina Bryant, LaRay Williams, Kendall Stinson, Kayla Kelley, Timothy Jackson, Rae Walker, Caleb Crocker, Caleb Dyess, Albert Tyson, Clark Skinner, Emily Paul, Blake Brown, Ashley Destina Gray, Kaci Grantham, Mary Katherine Head, Sheena Flowers, Deann Smith, Stephen Pope, Justin Allen and Jessica Sconers.

The Student Council continues to be busy with service projects, fundraisers, and fun activities. Spring activities include a trip to the Elba Nursing Home where the students delivered Easter cards to the residents, and sponsoring a school-wide field day. The officers are registered to attend the Alabama Association of Student Councils Spring Conference at Auburn during April. They are working on a scrapbook to be judged at the conference. The Council has given \$1500 toward the purchase of a sound system and cassette player to enhance the elementary physical education program.

Annual Piney Woods Arts Festival to be held April 19 & 20 in Enterprise

The Piney Woods Arts Festival held annually in Enterprise will be featuring another type of art project this year. Hands-on, interactive flower arranging courses will be offered during the festival, Saturday and Sunday, April 19-20. Enterprise Garden Club Federation is teaching the one-and-a-half hour course that will have about 45 minutes of lecture and demonstration. Then the students will have a hand at creating a design using the information they have learned. There are 8 courses, ranging from beginning flower arranging to "kebana", oriental flower arranging. Other classes include dinner table designs, dried wreaths, live topiaries, landscaping, and large arrangements. Each class is \$10 and registration is recommended. For more information about class times, descriptions and requirements, call 347-9724. The Piney Woods Arts Festival is held on the campus at Enterprise State Junior College. The flower design classes will be held in the college's Multi-Purpose Room.

Food for your growing child

Sandra T. Coffey - County Agent Coordinator

Food means more to a child than just a way to satisfy hunger. The food your child eats provides all the building materials needed for growth, health and energy. A child needs protein and minerals for growing, building and repairing body tissues, muscles and bones. Vitamins, working with minerals and protein, help keep the body in good working order.

Fats and carbohydrates provide fuel for activity. No single food can provide all the nutrients a child needs; your growing child needs to eat a wide variety of foods to get all these nutrients.

How much food your child needs daily depends on age, growth, size and activity level. Serve child-sized portions (one or two tablespoons) with the understanding the child can have seconds. A heaped plate can discourage a child with a small appetite.

You may want to serve your young children's meal on a salad plate rather than a dinner plate. Their smaller portions won't look lost on a large plate that way.

Avoid making an issue if a child refuses a specific food at a particular time. Substitute with a food that has nutrients.

Serve three regular, well-balanced meals at about the same time each day. An active or rapidly growing child may need a between-meal snack. Plan snacks such as fruit or juice to increase your child's

daily supply of vitamins. Avoid sweet or fatty snacks that can interfere with a child's appetite at mealtime.

Be sure your child gets plenty of water every day. Some children may prefer juices or other beverages, but avoid carbonated beverages and similar products. They may contain excess amounts of caffeine and sugars.

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Page 2

INSIDE
SOCIAL NEWS
Pages 4 & 5

INSIDE
NEWS CONT'D
Page 9

INSIDE
CLASSIFIED ADS
Pages 10 & 11

The Elba Clipper

VOLUME 100, NUMBER 45

50 CENTS

ELBA, ALABAMA, THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 1997

1 SECTION, 12 PAGES

County hires maintenance supervisor

By Marvin McLain, Editor

The Coffee County Commission in a 4-3 vote hired a new maintenance supervisor during Monday's meeting.

At times during the hiring process one could relate to the well-known comedy routine of "Who's on First?" by the late Bud Abbott and Lou Costello.

Before the hiring of a county maintenance supervisor took place, the commission took care of a matter carried over from the previous meeting.

The bids for the repairing of the undergarages on two dozers were rejected and are to be re-bid. This was approved at the recommendation of County Engineer Randy Tindell.

Tindell noted that the repair specifications are being reviewed and will be re-written prior to sending out bid requests.

Turning to new business, Phil Rugg was recognized by Commission Chairman Tom Grimsley. He was on the agenda to discuss promotion procedures. Rugg is a county employee who works in the county's maintenance department.

"I've been working with the maintenance department for a little over nine years," said Rugg. "I would like to request to be promoted to maintenance supervisor in accordance with the promotion policy of the employee's handbook."

After Rugg's statement, Commission Linda Westbrook made a motion that Rugg be promoted to the position of maintenance supervisor.

Chairman Grimsley asked the commission's attorney, Kenneth Fuller, "Can you make a motion like that when this commission has already decided the process that it would go through in hiring a maintenance supervisor?"

In the last commission meeting, a resolution was approved by the commission to allow Chairman Grimsley to appoint a screening committee.

The committee was to review the more than thirty applicants for the maintenance supervisor position and narrow the field to three to five individuals. The final decision of who would be hired was to be made by the commission.

Fuller's response to Grimsley was, "You can make a motion to rescind the former action [appointment of a screening committee] of the commission."

He further commented that Commissioner Westbrook, if she so desired, could, in her motion to rescind the previous action, include that Rugg be promoted to the position of maintenance supervisor.

"That's what I would like to do," Westbrook said.

A rather lengthy discussion ensued after the motion received a second.

Rugg commented that he had filled in for John Flowers, the previous maintenance supervisor, numerous times - anywhere from three months to a year at the time - since 1990. If there had been any complaints about the job he had done, Rugg stated that he had not been informed of them.

Westbrook told Chairman Grimsley that she had made a motion to promote Phil Rugg. She added that she did not think she could make a motion to rescind the commission's previous action.

Please See CCC, Page 9



ELBA W & E BOARD DONATES...the Elba Water and Electric Board recently donated \$1,000 to the Elba Elementary School. One \$500 check went to the Accelerated Reader Program and another \$500 check went to the Talent Pool Program. According to Board Chairman Tim Johnson, the excess operating funds of the Water and Electric Board are invested in areas to benefit the city's overall well being. "I have become well educated in these two programs and feel that these are just two of the many deserving programs in our city school system," said Johnson. "The donated funds are not simply a give-away to the school but an investment in a valuable resource - the education of our children." Shown presenting Judy Killingsworth (center), principal of Elba Elementary School, with the checks are Tim Johnson (left) and Elba Mayor James Grimes (right), who also serves as superintendent of the water and electric department.

City BOE hears report on lawsuit

By Ferrin Cox, Publisher

The Elba City School Board met last Thursday evening and in addition to routine business, heard a report on a class action suit, accepted a resignation and hired a replacement. The also heard Superintendent Charles Pearce report that he felt the students had gotten off to a great start with the SAT tests.

Pearce told board members of a class action suit filed by two recently retired North Alabama school teachers. The suit claims the schools reduced their retirement (and others

like them) by paying less than 100% of the "salary matrix," the issue which has been dominating teacher meetings, many board meetings and taking up much time in the legislature this year.

Pearce said that if this class action is won by the retired teachers, "it will open a can of worms." He gave several examples of other "what ifs" that could continue to clog the system.

The superintendent told board members that Elba only has one retired teacher which could be eligible for any additional payments if the

schools lose the suit.

He also showed them the additional benefits for a typical teacher if the 100% matrix is approved by the legislature as presently being recommended by committee.

The board accepted the resignation of Bobby Gully as custodian in the high school. He resigned after 11 years to accept a position with the U. S. Post Office. Hired to replace him was Tim Williams.

Pearce reported that the school system has received \$84,750.00, or 95%, of the state capital projects funds for the year. This money had been anticipated and budgeted by the board to complete the construction of the bus barn.

The financial statement for March showed a deficit of \$35,942.00 in the Goals 2000 money account. Pearce explained this is a federal fund account and is not funded until after the school has made the preapproved purchase and has a paid receipt for the equipment. The money is then reimbursed to the school.

The revenue balance on hand continues to drop, which is normal at this time of year, according to Board Chairperson, Mrs. Myrna Cowen.

She noted that after the fall peak in property tax revenues, the ending balances decline on a monthly basis. The school board meets monthly, usually on the Thursday evening nearest to the tenth of the month.

Jury awards Coffee County \$15,000 in Ammons lawsuit

By Marvin McLain, Editor

Last week, the civil jury in the case of Coffee County Vs. Wendell "Buddy" Ammons returned a verdict favorable to the county.

The five-man seven-woman jury awarded the county \$15,000.00 in comprehensive damages.

The lawsuit was filed against Ammons in 1992 after his ex-wife, Marilyn Ammons, pled guilty to stealing \$334,527.83 from Coffee County. She was a bookkeeper for the county for 13 years.

Late in 1991, Ms. Ammons was sentenced to 15 years in prison. She served fifteen months of the sentence and has since been released. She is making restitution to the county through monthly payments of \$10.00.

During the course of the trial, the county's attorney, Kenneth Fuller, contended that certain items were purchased with the stolen funds and later sold by Mr. Ammons. The plaintiff's attorney focused on two items: a bass boat and travel trailer.

Ms. Ammons, during testimony, stated that Mr. Ammons did not assist her in any way in stealing the county funds. She also testified that the funds used to purchase the boat and travel trailer were secured through a bank loan.

At the time of the incident involving Ms. Ammons, Buddy Ammons was a deputy sheriff with the Coffee County Sheriff's Department. After Ms. Ammons' indictment by a Coffee County grand jury in 1991, Buddy was dismissed from the sheriff's department.

When the county filed suit against Mr. Ammons, he filed a countersuit against the county.

At the conclusion of last week's trial, Circuit Judge William A. Barr also ruled in favor of the county by dismissing the countersuit.

Ammons has the right to appeal the decisions made in last week's court action. At this time, he has not decided whether or not to do so.

Ammons is presently employed with the Enterprise Police Department as an investigator.

Meet Your Elba Police Officers

Meet Police Officer James Anthony Dozier. Anthony is a native of Elba and has been a member of the Elba Police Department since 1994.

Officer Dozier presently works in the patrol division of the department on second shift.

Prior to joining the Elba Police Department, Dozier worked with the Opp Police Department for two years.

Anthony graduated from the Montgomery Police Academy. "I enjoy working with others in the community," said Dozier. "I don't like dealing with individuals who have a negative attitude toward police officers."

One of Officer Dozier's most memorable experiences is having to arrest three people at the same time.

For Elba, he would like to see a better community relationship between the department and the residents of the town.

"I would like to see the department have better equipment which the chief is working on for us," said Dozier.



Anthony's hobbies include all kinds of sports and singing. Officer Dozier is married and has two children. His wife's name is Deborah and his children's names are Markita Shaerail and Chelsea Lynn.

Elba police and drug task force make drug busts

By Marvin McLain, Editor

Last week, officers with the Elba Police Department and members of the 12th Judicial Drug Task Force joined together in making two drug busts.

Last Thursday afternoon, two Elba residents were arrested on drug charges. They were: Jerry Mack Bradshaw, 45, of Route 4, Elba and a juvenile.

Bradshaw was charged with unlawful possession of marijuana in the second degree and the juvenile was charged with unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia.

The arrests resulted in the seizure of a quantity of marijuana and ten marijuanas plants valued at approximately \$20,000.00. Also several firearms were confiscated.

Investigator Johnny Senn, an officer with the Elba Police Department

and a member of the drug task force, stated that the operation was a team effort.

Several Elba police officers and investigators worked together in gathering information on the drugs and developing that information into a successful conclusion.

In an unrelated incident, Elba police officers and drug task force members arrested another Elba resident and charged the individual with unlawful possession of marijuana in the first degree.

In connection with the arrest, a large quantity of marijuana valued at approximately \$800.00 was seized. At this time, the name of the individual arrested has not been released due to the on-going investigation.

Both incidents are being investigated by the Elba Police Department and the 12th Judicial Circuit Drug Task Force.

Calf diagnosed with rabies in Coffee County

By Marvin McLain, Editor

The diagnosis of a rabid calf in Coffee County prompted public health officials to encourage pet owners to be sure their dogs and cats are vaccinated against the fatal disease.

Officials also warn people not to approach stray animals, wildlife and bats.

the Elba Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

Brain tissue was subsequently sent for rabies examination to the Alabama Department of Public Health's Bureau of Clinical Laboratories - Dothan Division Laboratory, which confirmed the presence of the rabies virus.

"This case serves as evidence that

Please See RABID, Page 9

* * HAPPENINGS * *

FUTURE LITTLE MISS & LITTLE MISS ELBA PAGEANT
The Future Little Miss and Little Miss Elba Pageant is scheduled for Friday, April 18, 1997, at 7:00 p.m. at the Elba High School Auditorium. Alison McCreary, Miss Alabama 1996, will be emcee and also will provide entertainment. Little Miss Peanut 1996 Kelli Calhoun will also be performing at the pageant.

MISS & JR. MISS ELBA PAGEANT
The Miss and Junior Miss Elba Pageant is scheduled for Saturday, April 19, 1997, at 7:00 p.m. at the Elba High School Auditorium. Carrie Johnson, of WSFA-TV's "Today In Alabama" will emcee the event. Rob and Kelly Hudson of Nashville will be providing entertainment. A special invitation is extended to all former Miss Elbas. They are being asked to call the Elba Chamber of Commerce at 897-3125 if they plan to attend. Special recognition and reserve seating will be available for the former queens.

ELBA TIGER BAND DAY
The Elba Band Boosters will sponsor their annual Tiger Band Day on the courthouse square in downtown Elba on Saturday, April 19. There are many activities being planned for the festive day. All proceeds from Band Day '97 will directly benefit the Elba High School Band. To buy uniforms, instruments, music, and many other much needed items. In case of inclement weather, the festivities will be moved to the old Army Reserve Center on Claxton, Avenue.